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26 December 1963

MEMORANDUM

TO : DDI

25X1A

FROM :

SUBJECT: Comments on DDP Memo on Yemen

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1. The DDP reports upon which [REDACTED] memo was based had been obtained by us--one clandestinely from DDP--and were taken into account in writing our memo on Yemen for the DDI. [REDACTED]
attached.

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2. The facts stated in paragraph two of the DDP memo are believed to be accurate, but it is our feeling that the conclusions reached from them are overdrawn. The Egyptians have been encroaching on Yemeni governmental prerogatives since they first intervened in Yemen. We agree that the members of the Yemeni regime are becoming more and more disquieted by this, but have not reached the point of rebellion. While the YAR vice-presidents, cabinet, and presidential council resorted to the tactic of resigning their positions over two weeks ago, they are still going to their offices and carrying out their duties. The financial position of Yemeni governments--royal or republican--always have been "desperate," although the YAR's position now seems worse than it has been for a long time. We do not understand how the reference to "recent events in Aden" applies to the present internal situation in the YAR.

3. Paragraph three relating to a "radical and sudden change of the power balance inside the country" at "any hour" seems to be contradicted by the arguments which follow--defections to the northern tribes "not necessarily immediately" or "quiet departure" of YAR leaders from the government. Of course, outbreaks of violence against the Egyptians are possible.

4. Yemen has been widely regarded as an Egyptian puppet for some time. I cannot understand how the

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changes outlined in paragraph three of the DDP memo would make the YAR "fair game" for Saudi or for British overt moves against it. If the internal situation deteriorates markedly it would seem that it would increase the possibilities [redacted]

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S. [redacted] often knocks off memos such as this without consulting [redacted] In this instance, [redacted] admitted it did not understand the point made regarding "recent events in Aden."

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